GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3337
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
RAMSINH PATALIYABHAI RATHWA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral air service agreements/ negotiations concluded on the basis of balance of advantage and reciprocity to either side, during the last one year;

(b) the details of flights/frequencies agreed to in the bilateral negotiations, country-wise/airlines-wise;

(c) whether Air Indian/Indian Airlines are not fully utilising their allotted frequencies of air services on many sectors which is detrimental to the business prospects of Air India/Indian Airlines; and

(d)if so, the details therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b): Review of bilateral air service agreements is an ongoing process to make the adequate capacity available on different routes to meet expected demand. The details of bilateral air services agreements/ negotiations concluded during the last one year including additional capacity agreed to are as under:-

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COUNTRY   ADDITIONAL CAPACITY TO EITHER SIDE

Kenya  - 2120 seats
Sri Lanka -  600 seats
Saudi Arabia - 3 frequencies (900 seats approx.)
South Korea - 2 frequencies (800 seats approx.)
Malaysia - 3100 seats in phased manner
Turkey  - 900 seats
Italy  - 7 frequencies
Gulf States -  607 seats
Dubai  -  500 seats
Thailand - 5795 seats in phased manner
Ukraine  -  250 seats
Slovakia -  750 seats
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(c) & (d): Though Air India and Indian Airlines are constrained by their fleet availability, they are in the process of finalising their fleet expansion plans. In the mean time Air India has taken 9 A310-300 aircraft and 1 B747-400 aircraft on dry lease and endeavouring to utilise increased bilaterals fully. Whenever there are unbalance in operations, foreign airlines have to have commercial arrangement with Air India/Indian Airlines to achieve reciprocity and balance of advantage to Indian side.